

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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Claim 1 (cancelled)

2. (previously presented) The system according to claim 30, wherein  
said server retrieves, from a first character image data  
storage means, character image data expressing a character, which  
has been specified by the character string and has a size that has  
been designated by size designating data, as an image in such a  
manner that the specified character will have a font specified by  
font specifying data.

Claim 3 (cancelled)

4. (previously presented) The system according to claim 2, wherein  
said client computer further includes:

second character image data storage means for storing character  
image data expressing a character as an image;

determination means for determining whether character image  
data expressing a character as an image has been stored in said  
second character image data storage means, wherein said character  
has been specified by the character string, has a font that has  
been specified by the font specifying data and a size that has been  
designated by the size designating data; and



enlarging/reducing means which, in response to a determination by said determination means to the effect that the character image data has not been stored in said second character image data storage means, is for processing the character image data in such a manner that, of character image data that has been stored in said second character image data storage means, a character image that has been specified by the character specifying data and has a font that has been specified by the font specifying data will be enlarged or reduced so as to take on a size that has been designated by the size designating data.

Claims 5-6 (cancelled)

7. (previously presented) The system according to claim 30, wherein said client computer further includes style data transmitting means for transmitting, to the server, character style designating data for designating style of a character specified by the character specifying data; and

said server further includes:

designated character-style retrieval means for retrieving, from a first character image data storage means, designated-style character image data expressing, as an image, a character of a style designated by the character style designating data



transmitted from said style data transmitting means;

designated-style character image data generating means for generating the designated-style character image data in response to a situation where the designated-style character image data is not found by said designated character-style retrieval means; and

designated-style character image data transmitting means for transmitting, to said client computer, the designated-style character image data generated by said designated-style character image data generating means or the designated-style character image data found by said designated character-style retrieval means.

8. (original) The system according to claim 7, wherein said server further includes style information transmitting means for transmitting, to said client computer, style information for generating the designated-style character image data; and

said client computer further includes means for generating the designated-style character image data based upon the style information and the character image data transmitted from said style information transmitting means.

Claim 9 (cancelled)

10. (previously presented) The system according to claim 30, wherein said server includes:



a printing device; and

means for generating new character image data, from the character image data that has been designated by character image data generating means, so as to obtain a character image having a resolution suited to the resolution of said printing device.

Claims 11-29 (cancelled)

30. (currently amended) A font sharing system in which data can be communicated between a client computer and a server, data representing a character string including a plurality of characters and data representing sizes of characters are included in the character string being transmitted to said server from said client computer,

said server comprising:

layout generating means for generating data representing a layout based upon the data representing the character string and the data representing the sizes of characters transmitted from said client computer; and

transmitting means for transmitting the layout data generated by said layout generating means, said client computer comprising:

display control means for controlling a display device so as to display only layout frames in a preview area on a display



screen, each of the layout frames corresponding to the size of each character included in the character string based upon the layout data transmitted from said transmitting means of said server,

wherein each of the layout frames are box-shaped such that each of the layout frames is able to enclose their respective characters that are represented by the data representing the sizes of characters.

31. (currently amended) A client computer capable of communicating data with a server, comprising:

input means for inputting a character string including a plurality of characters;

designating means for designating sizes of characters included in the character string inputted from said input means;

transmitting means for transmitting the character string data inputted from said input means and data representing the sizes of character designated by said designating means;

layout data receiving means for receiving layout data generated by said server based upon the data representing the character string and the data representing the sizes of characters transmitted from said transmitting means; and

display control means for controlling a display device so as



to display only layout frames in a preview area on a display screen, each of the layout frames corresponding to the size of each character included in the character string based upon the layout data received from said receiving means of said server,

wherein each of the layout frames are box-shaped such that each of the layout frames is able to enclose their respective characters that are represented by the data representing the sizes of characters.

32. (currently amended) A server capable of communicating data with a client computer, comprising:

receiving means for receiving data representing a character string including a plurality of characters transmitted from said client computer and sizes of characters, which are included in the character string transmitted from said client computer;

layout generating means for generating data representing a layout based upon the data representing the character string and the data representing the sizes of characters; and

transmitting means for transmitting the layout data generated by said layout generating means,

wherein the layout data represents layout frames that are box-shaped such that each of the frames is able to enclose their



respective characters that are represented by the data representing the sizes of characters, and

wherein only the layout frames are displayed in a preview area on the client computer.

Claims 33-35 (cancelled)

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